Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGKO 07557 131229Z ACTION HA-05

INFO OCT-01 EA-12 ISO-00 VOE-00 CA-01 INSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 SY-05 AID-05 IO-14 /043 W

-----089027 131825Z /45

R 131115Z MAR 78 FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK TO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA INFO USMISSION GENEVA AMCONSUL HONG KONG AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE SECSTATE WASHDC 1461

UNCLAS BANGKOK 7557

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: SREF, VM, TH

SUBJ: MORE REFUGEES LEAVE SONGKHLA CAMP, ALLEGEDLY HEADED FOR

AUSTRALIA

REF: BANGKOK 7398

THIS FOLLOWING MESSAGE SENT FROM SONGKHLA TO BANGKOK H/W REPEAT TO YOUR POST

QUOTE

REF: SONGKHLA 0112

1. APPROXIMATELY 51 VIETNAMESE REFUGEES STOLE TWO BOATS, RG0632 AND VNKG 1221, THE NIGHT OF MARCH 11 SUPPOSEDLY HEADING FOR AUSTRALIA. THE EXACT NUMBER WHO LEFT IS NOT YET KNOW. ALMOST ALL OF THE REFUGEES ABOARD WERE SINGLE YOUNG MEN WHO DESPAIRED OF EVER LEAVING THE SONGKHLA CAMP FOR A THIRD COUNTRY. THE NAMES OF THE 51 KNOWN TO HAVE LEFT WILL BE SENT SEPTEL.

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2. AFTER OFFER MADE BY DISTRICT CHIEF REFTEL, ABOUT 175 REFUGEES IN CAMP INDICATED DESIRE TO GO TO AUSTRALIA. THE CAMP COMMANDANT WAS IN PROCESS OF ASKING PERMISSION FROM PROVINCE OFFICIALS FOR THESE 175 TO LEAVE WHEN 51 SNUCK OUT OF SONGKHLA. THOSE NOT ON BOARD WERE UPSET AS WERE POLICE GUARDS AT CAMP AND DISTRICT POLICE CHIEF THIS INCIDENT WILL UNDOUBTEDLY LEAD TO MORE PROBLEMS AND AN EVEN GRATER LOWERING OF THE MORALE OF THE REFUGEES IN CAMP.

HAYASHIDA UNQUOTE WHITEHOUSE

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Message Attributes

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Subject: MORE REFUGEES LEAVE SONGKHLA CAMP, ALLEGEDLY HEADED FOR AUSTRALIA

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